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Nazi/Japanese War Crimes Task Force review completed

Chief, HQM/OIS

20 February 1957

Chief, Foreign Documents Division

Semi-Annual Progress Report on the War Documentation  
Project (WDP)

1. During the period July-December 1956, research efforts continued on the requirements pertaining to Soviet military units, Soviet replacement system, and activities of collaborators and agents in selected European countries. In addition, three specific requirements pertaining to German military and paramilitary units were completed. Research activities involved the scanning of approximately 1,100 documents (averaging 150-200 pages each), of various German military commands, Gestapo and SS Security Services (SD) headquarters.

2. In the search for information on the Soviet military units, a total of about 500 documents of units subordinate to the German Army Group Center were scanned. 88 were selected for thorough exploitation. Information contained in these documents, unlike in those of Army Group North, is rather sparse and lacks continuity. A history of the 120th Infantry Regiment covering the period of June-October 1942 is now in preparation.

3. About 60 high-level military documents were scanned for information on the Soviet replacement system and are now being exploited with the aim of reconstructing the basic principles of the replacement and training of the Soviet Army during World War II.

4. In regard to three specific requests for the verification of data concerning units of the Todt Organization, an ad-hoc requirement was received on 26 July 1956 involving the scanning and exploitation of about 100 documents. In October-December 1956, 42 documents were fully exploited in answer to an ad-hoc request for information on a Lithuanian unit in the Soviet Union. Also in October, an ad-hoc request to verify data on the German 58th Infantry Division resulted in the exploitation of 20 folders of this division and a recently published book "Die Geschichte der 58 Infanterie Division, 1939-45" (Kurt von Zydowitz, Podzun Verlag, Kiel, 1952). The research on the latter two requests was aided by close liaison with the requesting office.

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5. Part of the total of about 430 Gestapo and SD documents scanned, 62 were selected for full exploitation for information on activities of collaborators, agents, etc., in the Netherlands and France. A report on the activities in France is now under completion and will soon be submitted. A separate report on the associates of Laval is also under preparation and will be completed in March.

The information on the Netherlands is being carried and a file of about 200 cards has been established thus far. Through close liaison, the requester has had an opportunity to modify his requirement according to need and research yield. This requirement is now being expanded to cover certain German intelligence activities in Southeast Europe.

6. Attempts to find information on the German military installations in Konnen and Mendenhof were unsuccessful. No pertinent documents pertaining to Polish underground and Communist activities in Poland were found.

7. The following reports were submitted during this period:

3 Aug 1956, WDP Report No 5, Confirmation of Military History of a Member of the Organisation Todt, 2 pages.

8 Oct 1956, WDP Report No 6, Part I, WWII Information on the 16th Lithuanian Inf Div of the Soviet Army, 9 pages.

7 Nov 1956, WDP Report No 7, Parts I, II, III, and IV, WWII Information on the German 58th Inf Div, 46 pages.

20 Nov 1956, WDP Report No 7, Part V, WWII Information on the German 58th Inf Div, 1 page.

3 Dec 1956, WDP Report No 6, Part II, WWII Information on the 16th Lithuanian Inf Div of the Soviet Army, 8 pages.

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